

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
WESTERN DIVISION
No. 5:15-CR-71-D**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
v.)
JUAN SOTO,)
Defendant.)

ORDER

On December 18, 2023, Juan Soto (“Soto” or “defendant”) moved for compassionate release under the First Step Act, Pub. L. No. 115-391, § 603(b), 132 Stat. 5194, 5238-41 (2018) (codified as amended at 18 U.S.C. § 3582). See [D.E. 160]. Soto contends that Hobbs Act robbery is not a crime of violence under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c). See id. at 1. Soto then argues that because he cannot obtain relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 concerning his conviction and sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c), the court should grant relief under the First Step Act and vacate his conviction and sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 924(c). See id. at 1-2; cf. [D.E. 123] (denying relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2255).

Hobbs Act robbery is a crime of violence under the force clause of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(3)(A). See United States v. Singletary, 75 F.4th 416, 427 n.8 (4th Cir. 2023); United States v. Green, 67 F.4th 657, 668–71 (4th Cir. 2023); United States v. Ivey, 60 F.4th 99, 116–17 (4th Cir. 2023); United States v. Mathis, 932 F.3d 242, 266 (4th Cir. 2019). Thus, the court rejects Soto’s argument.

In sum, the court DENIES defendant's motion for compassionate release [D.E. 160].

SO ORDERED. This 24-day of July, 2025.

J. Dever
JAMES C. DEVER III
United States District Judge